

Application No. 10/714,040
Amendment dated October 6, 2005
Reply to Office Action of July 25, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Cancel claims 3 and 11.

Amend claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 12, 13 and 14 as shown below.

1. (currently amended) A universal tie-down rail for securing a cargo in a vehicle comprising: a cylindrical tube; ~~a cylindrical thin wall tube~~; a pair of single piece brackets, each of said brackets having a uniform cross section comprised of an upper circular thin wall portion, an adjoining downward extending substantially vertical wall portion and an adjoining lower base portion and being selectively positional along a length of said tube and selectively rotatable about an axis of said tube; and a fastener threadably engaging each of said brackets for clamping said ~~brackets~~ bracket to said tube.

2. (currently amended) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 4 7 further comprising at least one additional bracket between said pair of brackets for reducing bending stresses in said thin wall tube.

3. (cancelled)

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4. (currently amended) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 7 wherein said vehicle is a pick-up truck.

5. (currently amended) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 7 wherein said vehicle is a van.

6. (currently amended) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 7 wherein said vehicle is a station wagon.

7. (currently amended) ~~The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 3 wherein~~ A universal tie-down rail for securing cargo in a vehicle comprising a cylindrical tube; at least one pair of single piece brackets having uniform cross sections, each of said brackets is comprised of having an upper circular thin wall portion, an adjoining downward extending substantially vertical wall portion and an adjoining lower base portion and being slidably positional along a length of said tube and rotatable about an axis of said tube; and a means in each of said brackets for fixing said brackets to said tube.

8. (cancelled)

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9. (cancelled)

10. (cancelled)

11. (cancelled)

12. (currently amended) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 11 7 wherein ~~said means for selectively positioning and fixing said bracket along a length of said tube is comprised of~~ further comprising a screw for threadably engaging said circular wall portion of each of said brackets to fix said bracket to said tube.

13. (currently amended) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 11 7 further comprising a single aperture in a lower portion of each of said brackets for said mounting of said rail on said vehicle.

14. (currently amended) The universal tie-down rail recited in claim 11 7 further comprising at least one additional bracket for mounting said rail on said vehicle.